

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ryan Miller on 10/8/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 20, line 8, after "device", please insert --and wherein the switch unit is provided with a dimmer and wherein the control circuit is adapted to sense the nature of a load connected to the female part of the wall socket and to block the dimming function when the load is not substantially formed by a resistance--.

Please cancel claims 26 and 27.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

Claim 20 is allowable over the prior art of record, because the prior art of record does not disclose "switch unit is adapted for mounting in a housing of a wall socket and is provided with a female part of the wall socket such that the wall socket is configured to receive a plug of an electrical device and wherein the switch unit is provided with a dimmer and wherein the control circuit is adapted to sense the nature of a load

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connected to the female part of the wall socket and to block the dimming function when the load is not substantially formed by a resistance.”

Claim 39 is allowable over the prior art of record, because the prior art of record does not disclose “the switch unit is provided with a dimmer and the control circuit is adapted to sense the nature of a load connected to the wall socket when a plug of an electrical device is coupled thereto and to block the dimming function when the load is not substantially formed by a resistance.”

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CARLOS AMAYA whose telephone number is (571) 272-8941. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Jared Fureman can be reached on (571) 272-2391. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/C. A./
Examiner, Art Unit 2836

/Jared J. Fureman/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 2836

10/08/2010